



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Adopting the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill as a Government Bill

Portfolios **Health / Associate Health (Hon Casey Costello)**

On 17 September 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that the National | New Zealand First Coalition Agreement contains a commitment to “ensure proper funding for birthing units and maternity care, including providing for a three day stay for new mothers”;
- 2 **noted** that the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill (the Bill) is currently a Member’s Bill, which seeks to establish a statutory entitlement allowing women who have given birth to elect to receive inpatient postnatal care for up to 72 hours, if desired;
- 3 **agreed** that the Government adopt the Bill as a Government Bill, to enable coordinated implementation and alignment with broader Government priorities and maternity care improvements;
- 4 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Health will report back to SOU with further information and next steps.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister for Seniors
Office of the Minister of Police